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Why We Have Started a Healing Ministry

Genesis 3:14-24; John 14:12

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- **This morning I'd like to talk with you about why we've started a healing ministry**
  - **Frankly, it all has to do with brokenness**
  - **God has a wonderful plan for Adam and Eve - they would have lived forever, been fruitful, and would have lived in an expanding geographical 'garden' that would have 'cooperated' with them in the growing of food, and there would have been a communion of animals and people - the 'Eden' to which many of us would long to return**

- **That plan was destroyed when these two tried to become God**
- **It's not too simple to say that the span of time from the point when Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden to the day in Bethlehem when Jesus was born was all about the bringing forth of a savior to fix the damage caused by this First Couple**
- **Jesus entered our damaged world in order to redeem (us and it) and transform (us and it)**
- **Jesus brought the Kingdom of God to us, and contested the ground otherwise held by Satan as the 'ruler of this world'; the presence of the Kingdom of God brought repair to the damage**

- **The healing ministry of Jesus is part of the coming of the Kingdom of God**
- **The healing ministry of Jesus is part of his redemption**
- **We were made in the image of God - which means we were made able to communicate with God (and each other), to love God (and each other), and to be responsible in relationship with God (and each other)**

- **The result of sin was a shattering of the image of God**
  - **Cain killed Abel**
  - **Our wickedness led to the Flood**
  - **Our hubris built the Tower of Babel which lead to a scattering of all peoples**
  - **Women would bear children in pain**
  - **Men would rule over their women**
  - **These results of sin would not have occurred if Adam and Even had been obedient; or, put another way, women would have been able to bear children without pain, and men and women would have (naturally) had relationships without headship or the conflict that ensues in relationships - there was an incredible plan that would have encompassed people, creation, flora and fauna life on our planet - humans were to have 'dominion' over the earth = responsible, wise stewardship**

- **All of this means we are broken**

    - **Jesus redeems us by healing the effects of the sin of Adam and Eve**
    - **Jesus works to restore God's original intentions for humanity and for creation**

- **In John 14, Jesus defines discipleship as the doing of the things he does**
    - **Preaching the Gospel of reconciliation with God**
    - **Demonstrating the Gospel by exercising the power of the kingdom of God through the Holy Spirit**

- **So … we've begun a healing ministry at CPC because**
    - **Jesus did**
    - **Jesus asks his disciples to do as he did**

- **And there are all kinds of brokenness**
    - **There is a need for spiritual healing - we don't really trust God**
    - **There is a need for inner healing - we don't really trust ourselves (self-esteem)**
    - **There is a need for physical healing - we won't live forever but God would demonstrate his power by bringing healing to his people as a demonstration of goodness and grace**
    - **There is a need for relationship healing**
    - **There is a need for delivering those under the power of Satan and his minions**

- **Finally, what about medicine or psychology or healthful practices?**
- **Most of you know we are particularly close to a prominent physician in Vacaville who is also a member of this church**
    - **I respect this man and his profession tremendously**
    - **I believe that with the 'dominion' (stewardship) over the earth God gave us, God also gave us reason and rationality and responsible choice - these are the tools God gave us so that we would be able to have prudent dominion**
- **Our creative minds and powerful emotions have enabled us to improve the human condition, and to exercise increasingly wise dominion**
- **So we have physicians and psychologists and nutritionists and engineers and scientists and teachers and artists and so many others, and we are wise to find and utilize the best and the brightest**
- **And with them we also have the privilege of asking God to heal - to add to the work of physicians or perhaps to confound the physicians, in order to demonstrate the power of the Kingdom of God which we Christians believe continues to exist powerfully alongside the rest of our world**
- **And, really, only the healing that God can provide is final and eternal**

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